

STREETLIGHT UK

ANNUAL REPORT

2018

www.streetlight.uk.com



StreetLIGHT UK
offering fresh choices

OFFERING FRESH CHOICES

ENDING THE VIOLENCE | EXIT SUPPORT | SHIFTING THE BURDEN

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FOREWORD

2018 has been another significant year of growth in the reach of our service provision across Sussex and Surrey. We have established **a new outreach team in London**, supporting women in North and South London, building partnerships with Police and Local Authorities in Enfield and Brixton and HMP Bronzefield.

The number of agency referrals, self-referrals, joint police operations and service user ongoing contact has grown significantly in 2018 and also saw Streetlight UK officially becoming the provider of a **detering offending perpetrator course in Tower Hamlets**, for men arrested for kerb crawling. This is delivering tangible results in tackling one of the key root causes of prostitution - the demand to purchase sex from predominantly men.

Much of our work is done in partnership and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the local agencies who have helped us provide a comprehensive service. Together with our partners, we work hard to deliver our core aims and to reduce the risk, impact and associated harms of prostitution within the region.

1. **ENDING VIOLENCE** - we consider prostitution a form of violence against women at its core.
2. **EXIT SUPPORT** - Seeking to support women in finding sustainable routes out of prostitution.
3. **SHIFTING THE BURDEN** - Shifting the burden of current UK law onto sex buyers and off of the women involved in prostitution.

We are extremely thankful for the support of our funders, without which we would not be able to deliver our specialist support across the region. Their confidence to invest in our growing service has enabled us to achieve our goals in supporting a difficult to reach group of women.

We would especially like to thank **our whole Streetlight UK team**, who are on the frontline and in the back office - enabling us to ensure that every woman who has contact with Streetlight UK, has both the professional and compassionate support they need to be free from sexual exploitation in all its forms."

HELENA CROFT
DIRECTOR | STREETLIGHT UK



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THE WOMEN



Who, How and Why women are involved in prostitution.

REASONS WOMEN ENTER PROSTITUTION

Streetlight UK in its research have found that there are a number of reasons why women are entering the sex trade 'willingly'.

Common denominators can include:

- financial hardship
- abuse, poverty, family illness,
- loss, loneliness and low self esteem.
- Coercion and control (Modern Slavery).

Online access has resulted in more pop-up brothels in short term let properties. This has made it extremely difficult to establish long term support networks, due to the fluid movement of the women and properties.

Modern Slavery, whilst devastating, remains a small percentage of the number of women involved in the sex trade in the UK.

SURVIVAL SEX

Many women have reported that a reduction in benefits, and rising living costs have resulted in an inability to make ends meet financially.

So women turn to 'SURVIVAL SEX' to make ends meet and pay for basic essentials such as food, rent, clothing etc.

Streetlight UK works in partnership with West Sussex Primary Care Trust and their public health team, to ensure that female sex workers are aware of the NHS services available to them. Promoting the GUM clinics, giving out free STI testing kits and condoms, and ensuring women are both aware and able to easily access other health and social care services locally.

ACCESS ONLINE IS FAR TOO EASY

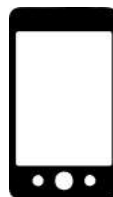
The biggest decision for a woman who is 'willingly' considering offering sexual services, is whether to be an independent escort or to work for an agency.

Most escort agencies will ask for an uploaded picture then almost immediately contact the woman to arrange an 'interview'. The whole process can take **LESS THAN 4 HOURS** before seeing a first client.

If a woman was advertising independently of an escort agency, simply filling out a profile and uploading a picture, could mean seeing her first client **WITHIN HOURS**.

As an independent escort a woman can have an active profile within 10 minutes of uploading a picture

EFFECTIVE ADVERTISING LEGISLATION AND RESOURCES TO ENSURE IMPLEMENTATION, IS URGENTLY NEEDED TO ADDRESS THIS.



A woman can have an active profile within 10 minutes of uploading a picture



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CRAWLEY | GATWICK | HORSHAM



An overview of the current sex trade in and around Crawley/Gatwick & Horsham

Despite there being no obvious red light district prostitution is growing online and in 'off street' premises across the wider Crawley and Gatwick areas.

Below gives a snapshot of the problem:

AS OF FEBRUARY 2019 - 'SAFE' a forum for sex worker websites, listed on their top 10 sites the following number of women offering services:

	Crawley	Horsham	Surrey	Sussex
Adultwork	95	10	112	142
Bumpix	7	0	31	249
Friday Ad	165	11	139	144
Locanto	11	0	40	346
Local Escorts	263	34	528	508
Punterlink	157	83	230	180
Punternet	1	1	157	2
Select Escort	14	18	127	142
Adult Zone	304	165	384	413
UK Belles	9	2	7	36
Viva Street	15	1	227	22
Total	1041	325	1982	2184

THERE ARE MANY OTHER SITES NOT LISTED

It's worth noting that in this document Crawley/Gatwick & Horsham women are often listed together as they operate across all areas. This fluid nature of movement across towns is common practice among those involved in the sex trade.

In 2018, Streetlight UK engaged with 501 women involved in prostitution in Sussex & Surrey

Streetlight UK engaged with a total of 501 individual women in prostitution in 2018 in Sussex and Surrey, which was a 40% increase from 2017.

369 of these women were from across Gatwick and Crawley, with 98 women specifically involved in the sex trade in Crawley.

MODERN SLAVERY:

Of the women supported by joint Streetlight UK/Police operations: 9% were identified as trafficked and were all successfully referred to the National Referral Mechanism by the Police/Streetlight UK.

Streetlight UK provided **105 hours of operational support to our Police Partners in 2018**, which undoubtedly illustrates a clear need for the service across the region.

We engaged with a total of 98 women involved in the sex trade in Crawley in 2018

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CRAWLEY BREAKFAST CLUB



Streetlight UK offer specialist support at a weekly women's only breakfast club, run by Kent, Sussex and Surrey Rehabilitation service.

A SAFE SPACE FOR WOMEN

An average of 7 but up to 15 women attend the breakfast club each week with varying issues.

Not all women have any links to prostitution, however there are a number of women who do access the breakfast club that are currently using 'survival' sex as a means to fund drug habits, alcohol addictions or housing needs.

Our weekly presence has enabled us to provide a vital specialist service to those involved in prostitution along with other related services in the local community.

- 8 women in 2018 identified as being a current or former sex 'worker'.
- 4 offered ongoing outreach 3 accepted
- 153 hours of support to individual women since April 2018.

Outreach has included accompanying women to sexual health clinics for full sexual health screening tests, housing support, specialist advice around prostitution impact and trauma.

It also enables us to provide women with sexual health testing kits, condoms and offer specialised ongoing support, for the multiple harms that can result from involvement in prostitution.



As a regular presence at the Breakfast Club, the women trust the volunteers and staff of Streetlight UK.

This has led to a number of disclosures and conversations relating to:

- Sexual health and sexual health resources,
- Childhood trauma.
- Open discussions about previous sexual history.
- Sexual assault.



PROSTITUTION ONLINE

With super-fast broadband now widely available on computers and mobile devices, 'ordering' a girl, takes less than 5 minutes of searching.

Online escorts will provide either "in house" or "outhouse" calls - meaning a woman will meet wherever her client wants.

In less than 0.74 seconds, a google search for 'Independent Escorts Crawley' will reveal over 135,000 results - a **staggering 49% increase on last years figures** using the same search terms.

Within 25 minutes of 'booking an escort' online, she will be at the door - often a faster delivery than most food takeaway services

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LONDON

THE "YOU CHOOSE" COURSE DETERRING OFFENDING - PERPETRATOR COURSE

TOWER HAMLETS

IN 2018 STREETLIGHT UK BECAME THE PROVIDER OF A DETERRING OFFENDING COURSE FOR PERPETRATORS IN TOWER HAMLETS.

Originally the course "Stop & Think" was delivered by a private consultant, Streetlight UK were asked by Tower Hamlets Council, in conjunction with Tower Hamlets Police, to take over the provision and delivery of a perpetrator course for the area, so that a support service for women benefits directly instead.

The "YOU CHOOSE" COURSE, developed by Streetlight UK is the result and is now fully operational.



OUTREACH TEAMS IN ENFIELD AND BRIXTON

DURING 2018 WE RECRUITED AND TRAINED A SUPERB TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR LONDON OUTREACH TEAMS, MOST OF WHOM HAVE PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS

Next steps are building local partnerships and seeing where our support service can meet existing gaps.

IN 2018 WE DIRECTLY SUPPORTED 33 WOMEN ACROSS LONDON.

Up to 8 to 10 men a month can attend the in depth educational day course. In 2018 only 2 men re-offended out of approx 50 men completing the Stop & Think course and we are expecting even greater results in 2019 with the "YOU CHOOSE" course.

We have supported 33 women directly from outreach in Enfield and had referrals from Brixton, as well as various self referrals from across London.

CONTINUING CHALLENGES

Women advertising sexual services online - which is now the vast majority, are becoming more isolated and difficult to reach.

They face similar risk of attack and exploitation as those working in on -street prostitution.

They are a growing, vulnerable and yet hidden group of women in our communities, who are not easily engaged with by support services.

SECURING COUNTY AND CROSS BOUNDARY FUNDING IS A KEY PRIORITY IN ENABLING STREETLIGHT UK TO CONTINUE DELIVERING AND EXPANDING ITS SERVICE.

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WOMEN WE SUPPORT



What they say:



"Support from Streetlight UK has significantly improved my mental and emotional health - I feel safe to start talking about my previous life"

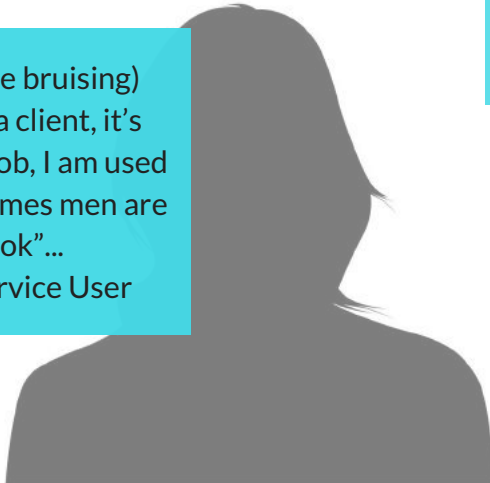
SOME EXAMPLES OF SUPPORT

Streetlight UK supported over 530 women in 2018

- 43hrs of direct telephone and email support from volunteers.
- A range of direct self referrals as a result of our specialist support Advert on Adultwork 'sex worker' forum.
- Have sent approx 500 direct messages of support to women working Online.
- Supported a former Brothel owner - with ongoing specialist support to deal with PTSD and mental issues. .
- Supported women inmates in HMP Bronzefield.

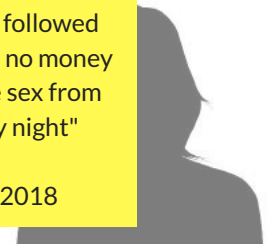
"...oh it (the bruising) was from a client, it's part of the job, I am used to it, sometimes men are not ok"...

2018 Service User



"The reality is that I was forced into prostitution, to pay a debt that was not mine. I was repeatedly raped and followed everywhere, I received no money and was made to have sex from 10am - 10pm every night"

Service User Oct 2018



CASE STUDY - HIGHLIGHTING THE NEED FOR CONSISTENT SPECIALIST SUPPORT

No little girl ever dreams of growing up to be a prostitute. I had dreams of becoming a lawyer.

The fact that I looked so young made me incredibly popular with the punters. After the first one I cried and cried. He wasn't nasty to me or anything like that, but a small part of me died that night.

Once I'd taken their money, I'd close my eyes and allow them to rape me with my consent. That may sound strange, a contradiction, but although my mouth said yes, inside I screamed no! I soon realised that I'd become an object that could be repeatedly used and tossed aside. During my time in the sex industry, I met many other prostitutes. We all had one thing in common - a hatred of the men who paid us for sex. I'd adopt a totally different persona while I was them. It was a coping mechanism, a way of ensuring they never met the real me.

Service User 2018 receiving ongoing support to overcome the trauma of PTSD and related issues from prostitution.

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POLICE PARTNERS



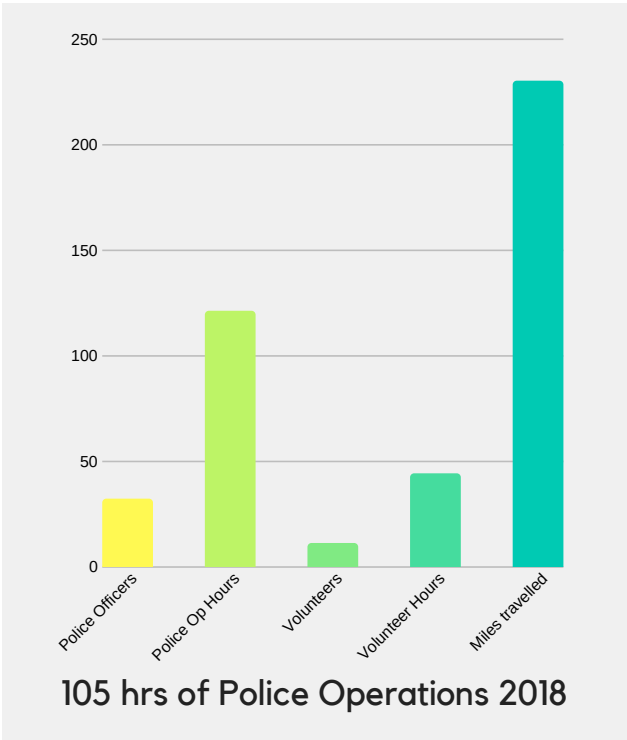
What they say about Streetlight UK

SUSSEX AND SURREY

Gatwick Police - are a key partner with Streetlight UK, we are part of a Modern Slavery Forum board based at Gatwick Airport along with: A21, Travelcare, Border Force, Gatwick Security, Rape Crisis, Sussex Police and Surrey Police and others.

Sussex Police - Streetlight UK have developed a firm partnership with the Police, particularly focusing on the 'Hotel Watch' scheme within the area. 2018 also resulted in a strengthened partnership with Horsham Police in tackling modern slavery and related prostitution across the town.

Surrey Police - Streetlight UK has been working closely with Surrey Police during 2018, in identifying Modern Day Slavery within the region. This relationship has been mainly working on joint Streetlight & Surrey Police live operations, in Epsom, Guildford, Redhill and Weybridge,



we really appreciate your organisation assisting us with the issue of modern day slavery
 Guildford Police

'We would like to work alongside you in making sure that any sex workers found at this hotel are first and foremost safe'
 'Europa Hotel Jan 2018

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE

In 2018 we were approached by 3 police teams from within the Met Police and have begun exploring how we can support them and the existing support services to women involved in street prostitution across London.

We have supported 33 women directly from outreach in Enfield and had referrals from Brixton, as well as various self referrals from across London.

'Your staff has proven invaluable as a non police presence'
 Surrey Police
 2018

"We recognise that you can provide a service that we cant."
 Sussex PCC

We regularly attend a stakeholder meeting at HMP Bronzefield to strengthen links with women inmates before release.

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PARTNERSHIP APPROACH



Our Partners and what they say about Streetlight UK

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHERS IS KEY TO STREETLIGHT UK'S APPROACH IN DELIVERING OUR SPECIALIST SERVICE.

WE SEE OURSELVES AS ONE PIECE IN THE JIGSAW IN ANSWERING THE MULTIPLE NEEDS OF OUR SERVICE USERS.

TOGETHER WITH OUR PARTNERS WE CAN OFFER AN HOLISTIC AND COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE TO VULNERABLE WOMEN.

By partnering with local statutory organisations and other NGO's we have embedded our service into the local community and increased women's access to vital services.

SOME OF OUR PARTNERS INCLUDE:

CRAWLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL. Streetlight UK attend a community safety forum every quarter, which is a safer Crawley partnership initiative, run by Crawley Borough Council and Crawley CVS.

CRAWLEY VOLUNTARY SERVICE (CVS).

Streetlight UK have formed working relationships with CVS and attend a number of member events hosted by CVS.

HORSHAM RUN FIT - Sponsor Streetlight UK's logo on their running kits and are keen to support us in any charity events.

KENT, SUSSEX AND SURREY REHABILITATION

Streetlight UK have formed a partnership bringing our specialist service to their women's only breakfast club.

HMP BRONZEFIELD

"We will keep you posted as we may need your expert knowledge and guidance"
Surrey Partner
2018

HOW WE WORK

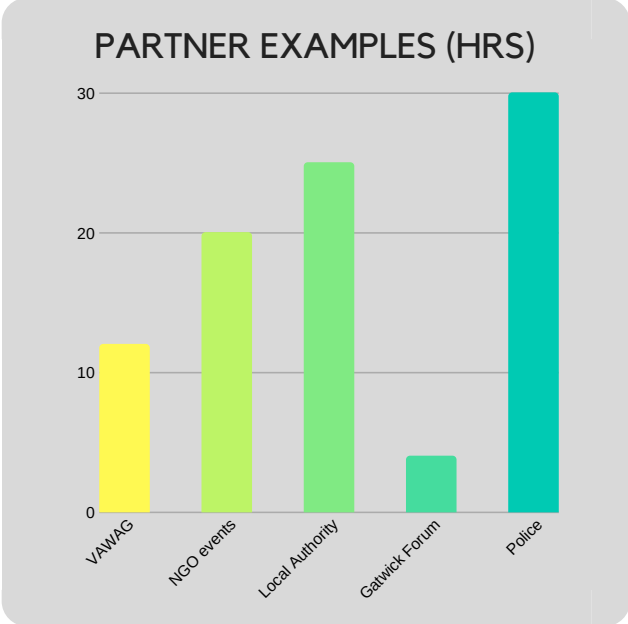
TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL - Streetlight UK became the providers of the Deterring Offending perpetrator course in Sept 2018.

TOWER HAMLETS POLICE

VAWAG FORUM. West Sussex Violence against Women and Girls, funded by West Sussex County Council.

WEST SUSSEX SEXUAL HEALTH TEAM provide resources such as condoms and STI testing kits.

WOMEN'S AID Surrey approached Streetlight UK as a number of women living in 'refuge' have been involved in the sex trade, to provide knowledge and skill when working with this particular client group.



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OUR STREETLIGHT TEAM



Volunteers and Awareness Events

OUR VOLUNTEERS

At the heart of our service is a team of trained, dedicated, enthusiastic and professional volunteers. Their motivation, attitude and flexibility, ensures that every woman who has contact with Streetlight UK, is met with both a professional and compassionate expertise.

Women involved in prostitution face high levels of anxiety, fear and uncertainty about their future so this approach is vital to gain and build trust.

Our teams seek to put the women's choices at the center of their work and during the last 12 months our front-line teams have worked hard to maximize the women's access to support services.

STREETLIGHT UK PATRON:

The Right Rev Dr Martin Warner MA PhD,
The Bishop of Chichester,

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES:

Neil Johnston

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Helena Croft

OUTREACH TEAMS:

- Shereen Hazman
1. CRAWLEY/GATWICK
2. HORSHAM

- Sue Sanger
3. LONDON

EXAMPLES OF AWARENESS

OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS ARE OFTEN SEEN OUT AND ABOUT ACROSS SUSSEX, SURREY AND LONDON - RAISING AWARENESS TO THE CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN IN THE SEX TRADE.



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